

Remarks

Claims 4 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-26 are pending.

Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

TC 1700
APR 4 2002

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 4 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, amended claim 4 now further modifies the complementary fastening surface of claim 15. Claim 19 has been amended per the Examiner's suggestion to recite a mechanical fastener which has been cured.

In summary, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 4 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome, and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohno (Published Japanese Patent Application 63-14756).

The present application claims a curable mechanical fastener including a fastening surface having a curable material, where the fastening surface is capable of being repeatedly attached and unattached to a complementary fastening surface, and when attached to the complementary fastening surface and cured, is capable of becoming permanently attached to the complementary fastening surface. Ohno does not disclose a complementary fastening surface as in the present application. Thus, given that Ohno does not disclose a complementary fastening surface, Ohno does not disclose a mechanical fastener capable of being repeatedly attached and unattached to a

complementary fastening surface nor does Ohno disclose a mechanical fastener that is capable of becoming permanently attached to the complementary fastening surface.

In contrast, Ohno discloses an installation tool main body which has a curable adhesive agent applied to a surface of the installation tool. The installation tool also includes a removable heating source used to cure the curable adhesive after application to a substrate, such as a wall surface. There is no disclosure of a complementary fastening surface.

As Ohno fails to teach each and every element of the claims the rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohno should be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohno (Published Japanese Patent Application 63-14756).

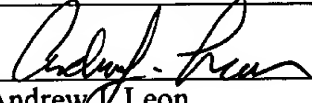
Ohno does not teach or suggest a curable mechanical fastener including a fastening surface having a curable material, where the fastening surface is capable of being repeatedly attached and unattached to a complementary fastening surface, and when attached to the complementary fastening surface and cured, is capable of becoming permanently attached to the complementary fastening surface. Applicants' comments above distinguishing the present claims from the Ohno patent are incorporated herein. Additionally, Ohno fails to teach or suggest a to a complementary fastening surface and thus fails to teach or suggest a fastening surface that can be repeatedly attached and unattached to a complementary fastening surface. Furthermore, Ohno fails to teach or suggest a fastening surface that when attached to a complementary fastening surface becomes permanently attached. Ohno only teaches a wall surface installation tool which permits the permanent attachment to a wall through the use of a curing adhesive. There is no teaching or suggestion regarding the ability of mechanical fastener to repeatedly attach or unattach to a complementary fastening surface. An example in Ohno simply demonstrates the attachment of a hook to a wall using putty to hold the attachment in place and then curing the adhesive with heat generated by a removable heat source.

The rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohno has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.
Reconsideration of the application is requested. Allowance of claims 1-26, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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AJL/spg
54570-002 AMENDMENT-



Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

4. (Amended) The curable mechanical fastener of claim [1] 15, wherein the complementary fastening surface comprises a curable material.
19. (Amended) A [cured] mechanical fastener according to claim 1 which has been cured.